

Street Chrysanthemum, Dahlia & Vegetable Society

Newsletter

Spring 2015

We are now over the worst of the winter now, and seeing the early signs of spring. Fortunately the winter was relatively mild, and nothing like as wet as the previous one. After spending the winter months looking at catalogues and ordering plants, seed etc, it is now the really busy time for all gardeners, but particularly for those hoping to enter exhibits in our Annual Show.

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM took place in the pool room at the Unity Club on Tuesday 3rd February and was attended by about 25 members and guests. I am afraid our communication with members fell short this year as the AGM was advertised in the local press, on our website, and also emailed to all members for whom I have email addresses. Maureen used to send out to various other members, but regrettably we failed to do that this year. This has already been discussed in committee, and hopefully we will do better next year. Apologies to all those who were disappointed to find they had missed the meeting.

The Chairman gave a report on the successes of the last year and thanked all members of the committee for their invaluable contributions to running the Society. The Treasurer, Pat Baker, gave his report, and issued copies of the accounts, which he expanded on. Essentially they showed that the Society continues to be in a satisfactory financial position.

Elections were held and the new officers and committee are as follows: -

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President: | Ken C. Dunthorn |
| Chairman: | John Merrick (Avalon House, Lower Godney, Wells BA5 1RZ) |
| Vice Chairman: | Jim Searle |
| Correspondence Secretary: | Mrs Lin Driscoll |
| Minutes Secretary: | Mrs Mary Whitaker |
| Entries Secretary: | Pat Baker |
| Membership Secretary: | Pat Baker |
| Treasurer: | Pat Baker (2 Prospect Close, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5YD) |
| Show Manager: | Gordon West |
| Press Officer: | Ruth Hamlett |
| Committee: | John Baker, Chris Bentley, Paul Boncey, Mrs Kay Burleton, Colin Driscoll, Sonny Dunthorn, Barrie Lovelace, Mrs Sandra Lovelace, Tony Nicholls, Les Taylor, Terry Vernoum, Plus Officers |

As you will see, the officers are unchanged, but we have three new committee members – Chris Bentley, Paul Boncey and Les Taylor – all welcome additions to the team. We are looking forward to them bringing lots of new ideas to the Society.

Thanks to Pat Baker for organising the raffle and to Gordon West for arranging the refreshments.

After the break, we were delighted that Chris Smith, from Pennard Plants, (www.pennardplants.com) agreed to come back again. This time, he gave an entertaining and informative talk on “The Search for Gold”. Chris was excellent last year, and his talk this year was very different, but just as interesting. We were all a lot better informed about the “behind the scenes” activity that goes into exhibiting at flower shows like Chelsea, Hampton Court, Shrewsbury and Tatton Park along with lots of anecdotes of his experiences over the years.

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We are very pleased to have some “new blood” on the committee, but if other members feel they would like to contribute ideas or make suggestions, please contact us – see “Communication” below, or contact us via the website. It is useful to have feedback – both positive and negative – from members, about the Society, comments on classes in the schedule or any other matter.

Saturday, 16th May 2015: Annual Plant Sale in the Library gardens, Leigh Road, Street: 8am – 12noon

For many years (I think, about fifteen), members of the committee and others have collected plug plants from a nursery in Honiton. These have then been pricked out into pots or trays (also by members), and grown on in Jim Searle’s polytunnel. This has enabled us to grow a good selection of plants at very good prices, as all the work was done by members. However, Jim’s polytunnel was destroyed in the gales, and now he is also no longer able to use his premises for keeping and growing the plants. The Society is extremely grateful for all Jim’s hard work and generosity over the years, but this year we have had to look at other ways to source the bedding and basket plants. Profit margins will be less, but we have arranged with Sweetacre Nursery, who were very helpful, to supply the plants. One advantage of this is that there will be a larger selection of plants, although estimating how many we need is difficult – we cannot afford to be left with a lot of plants. We hope we have the numbers about right (the weather on the day is always an unpredictable factor), but we will adjust numbers and varieties in the light of this year’s sale. There will still, of course, be the many plants donated by members for the sale as well.

This is a chance to buy plants for hanging baskets, bedding plants, tomato, cucumber & pepper plants, dahlias, chrysanthemums, fuchsias and some perennials all at very reasonable prices.

Members only can collect their fuchsia plants for class 41. The kelsae onion plants for members should also be collected then – or before if available. Pat Baker should be the first to know when they will be ready.

Money raised from the plant sale helps to fund the **Annual show (on 12th September this year)**.

Communication:

To improve communication and to save paper and postage, it would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for as many members as possible. This would reduce the cost of keeping you informed. Please send your e-mail addresses to Pat Baker (pbaker042000@yahoo.co.uk) or John Merrick (merrickj13@gmail.com).

I am sorry to report the death of one of our members: Mrs Kathy Pepperell.

Mary Whitaker writes: After a career with the Metropolitan Police, Kathy retired to Glastonbury nine years ago. She had long been associated with a variety of schools in the London area and was keen to use her experience in local education as a way of becoming involved in the community.

We were fortunate that she joined the Governing Body at Hindhayes where, amongst many roles, she served with distinction as Vice-chair and Finance Governor. Kathy was also a Governor at St Dunstan’s and at the Pupil Referral Unit in Glastonbury as well as being a member of the Admissions Appeal Committee for Somerset. Her knowledge, experience and good sense will be sorely missed by many.

Kathy loved her garden and enjoyed being a member of the Society and attending the AGMs. The officers, committee and members send their sincere condolences to her husband and family at this sad time.